

# MENTOR RESOURCE GUIDE

## OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Student Affairs Office at Denver Law is dedicated to helping students thrive while in law school. They assist students with a variety of matters including ADA accommodations, bar application questions, student organizations, support services, wellness resources, student events, and more.

**Key Contact:** Jessica Boynton, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs  
[jessica.boynton@du.edu](mailto:jessica.boynton@du.edu)

Suite 115

**Web Address:** [www.law.du.edu/student-affairs](http://www.law.du.edu/student-affairs)

## OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)

Denver Law's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) seeks to cultivate a teaching and learning environment that creates a sense of inclusion, belonging and well-being for all members of our community. The office believes that the presence, participation, and perspectives of individuals from groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in legal education and the legal profession – including those that have experienced systematic marginalization, oppression, and exclusion – requires intentional time, energy, resources, and engagement. As such, the DEI office provides programming and student engagement opportunities which amplify the issues affecting such students. It also provides support to affinity groups and offers trainings, individual advising, and wellness resources.

**Key Contact:** Alexi Freeman, Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
[alexifreeman@du.edu](mailto:alexifreeman@du.edu)

Rm. 365M

**Web Address:** [www.law.du.edu/diversity](http://www.law.du.edu/diversity)

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Students take the same courses during their first year (or first year and one half for part-time students). Following the first-year courses, students must complete three additional courses, and have the option to select a Certificate Program.

### First Year Courses

- Constitutional Law
- Property Law
- Civil Procedure
- Torts
- Contracts
- Criminal Law

In addition to the above courses, first year students have two semesters of the introductory legal research and writing course, Lawyering Process. The course includes first semester motion drafting and second semester brief drafting, followed by first-year oral arguments.

## Required Upper Division Courses

- Administrative Law
- Evidence
- Legal Profession

## Certificate Programs

Denver Law offers seven Certificate Programs:

- Animal Law
- Constitutional Rights and Remedies
- Corporate and Commercial Law
- Environmental and Natural Resources Law
- International Legal Studies
- Intellectual Property and Technology Law
- Workplace Law

## Academic Advising

The Office of Academic Advising provides academic support to all students, and assists with degree planning, course selection, and defining the overall scope of a student's legal education. Students may drop in or request an appointment to meet with Allison at any time during their studies at Sturm.

**Key Contact:** Allison Peters, Director of Academic Advising and Initiatives  
[allison.peters@du.edu](mailto:allison.peters@du.edu)  
Rm. 390P

**Web Address:** <https://www.law.du.edu/academics/academic-advising>

## Study Abroad

Denver Law offers several Study Abroad programs allowing students to take courses at a variety of law schools internationally. Our summer program in Sorrento, Italy, is the most popular as it allows students to travel abroad with DU Law students and faculty over a four-week period in May & June. Also offered is a one-year exchange with the Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid, Spain. Students study at Comillas for their entire 3L year and earn a European LLM degree in addition to their American JD. There is also an exchange with the University of Western Australia in which students can study in Perth for 2 years and earn both an American and Australian JD.

**Key Contact:** Allison Peters, Director of Academic Advising and Initiatives  
[allison.peters@du.edu](mailto:allison.peters@du.edu)  
Rm. 390P

**Web Address:** [www.law.du.edu/academics/study-abroad](http://www.law.du.edu/academics/study-abroad)

## STUDENT-RUN ORGANIZATIONS

Denver Law has a variety of student organizations and journals that allow students to connect with their peers and with faculty.

### Law Review & Journals

Students can apply to be on the [Denver Law Review](#). The law review publishes four issues each year. Candidacy begins after spring semester final exams each year (<https://www.denverlawrev.org/candidacy>).

In addition, Denver Law has the following journals:

- Denver Journal of International Law and Policy (<http://djilp.org/student-candidacy/>)
- Sports and Entertainment Law Journal (<https://duselj.wordpress.com/candidacy/>)
- Transportation Law Journal (<https://www.law.du.edu/academics/law-reviews-journals/transportation-law-journal>)
- University of Denver Water Law Review (<http://duwaterlawreview.com/contact/#contact-info>)

Students should visit the individual journals' websites, provided above, to learn details about candidacy and application periods.

### Student Organizations

Denver Law currently has the following student organizations, though students may form new organizations at any time:

- ACLU DU Chapter
- Air and Space Law Society
- Artificial Intelligence Law Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Students' Association
- Black Law Students' Association
- Business Law Society
- Chancellor's Scholar Program
- Children's Legal Advocacy Group
- Christian Legal Society
- Criminal Law Association
- Denver Law Democrats
- DU Law Outdoor Club
- DU OUTLaws
- DU Women's Legal Coalition
- First Generation Law Student Alliance
- Health Law Society
- If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- International Law Society
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Land Use Law Society
- Latin Law Students Association
- Law Student Ambassadors
- Law Students Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
- Law Students with Disabilities
- National Lawyers Guild
- Native American Law Students' Association

- Natural Resources & Environmental Law Society
- Privacy Law Society
- Public Interest Law Group
- Race to the Bottom
- South Asian Law Student Association
- Sports and Entertainment Law Society
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Student Bar Association
- Student Immigration Law Coalition
- Student International Cannabis Bar Association
- Student Trial Lawyers Association
- Student Veterans of America
- The American Constitution Society
- The Environment at 5280
- The Federalist Society
- Venture Law Society

The [Student Bar Association](#) (SBA) is the official resource and liaison for the student body in matters involving school administration, faculty, and student services. Students should contact current SBA leadership for details on the SBA leadership election process.

## ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Most academic assistance to students is provided through the Academic Achievement Program (AAP). The AAP Director, Professor Diane Kraft, is happy to meet with students individually to discuss strategies for succeeding in law school.

**Key Contact:** Diane Kraft, AAP Director, and Professor of the Practice  
[diane.kraft@du.edu](mailto:diane.kraft@du.edu)  
 Rm. 455H

**Web Address:** <https://www.law.du.edu/academics/academic-achievement-bar-success>

### AAP Leaders

AAP Leaders are outstanding upper-level students who provide first year students with support in their 1L courses. AAP Leaders coordinate with professors of 1L classes and sometimes attend class lectures. They meet individually with students and hold group sessions that cover topics such as case reading and briefing, note taking in class, outlining, exam preparation, and exam writing.

### Writing Clinic

The Writing Specialist, Kate Stoker, works with students to improve their legal writing skills. Students can schedule appointments with Prof. Stoker at <https://calendly.com/kate-stoker> to receive assistance on their writing assignments, revise professional writing samples, and address general writing concerns. She also offers writing workshops and sends weekly writing tips by e-mail. Finally, Prof. Stoker can help connect students who love to write with the many national legal writing competitions.

**Key Contact:** Kate Stoker, Legal Writing Specialist and Professor of the Practice  
[kate.stoker@du.edu](mailto:kate.stoker@du.edu)  
Rm. 472A

**Web Address:** <https://www.law.du.edu/academics/academic-achievement-program/legal-writing-clinic>

## TRIAL ADVOCACY RESOURCES

The Center for Advocacy oversees and supports the professional development of our students by offering courses, hosting educational activities and sponsoring events in both the courtroom advocacy (mock trial) and appellate (moot court) arenas. Except for the Moot Court Board and its competitions, Professor of the Practice, David Schott, is the key contact for all courtroom advocacy-related inquiries, with the exception of the Moot Court Board and the Student Trial Lawyers Association):

**Key Contact:** David Schott, Advocacy Program Director  
[david.schott@du.edu](mailto:david.schott@du.edu)  
Rm. 390H

**Web Address:** <http://www.law.du.edu/the-center-for-advocacy>

### Trial Courses

Students interested in courtroom litigation and trial advocacy, including earning a Concentration in Advocacy, are encouraged to look at the “[Litigation Paths](#)” that provide guidance on possible second, third and fourth year courses. Courses offered through the Center for Advocacy include:

- Trial Practice I – Basic Courtroom Skills
- Trial Practice I – Intensive
- Trial Practice I – Basic Courtroom Skills / Commercial Law
- Trial Practice II – Advanced Courtroom Skills
- Trial Practice II – Deposition Skills
- Trial Practice II – Litigation Technology
- Trial Practice II – Motions Practice
- Trial Practice II – Voir Dire
- Trial Practice III – Criminal Procedure Practicum
- Trial Practice III – National Trial Team
- Trial Practice III – Trial Practicum
- Trial Practice III – Mentors Practicum
- Trial Practice III – Instructors Practicum
- Day One – Criminal Practice Lab
- Day One – Civil Practice Lab

### Mock Trial & Moot Court Teams

Denver Law has eighteen trial advocacy and moot court teams. These teams compete both nationally and internationally. The teams include:

- ABA Appellate
- Intellectual Property Law
- Jessup – International Law
- NALSA - Native American
- Bankruptcy
- Pace Environmental
- Workplace Law
- Baseball Arbitration
- Basketball Negotiation
- Football Mediation
- Hockey Mediation
- Client Counseling
- Transactional Moot Court
- Tax Moot Court
- Mediation and Negotiation
- Native American Law Moot Court
- Veterans Advocacy
- Vis – International Commercial Arbitration

In addition, Denver Law’s National Trial Team competes nationally in ten tournaments each year and students can earn credit for their participation on the team. Tryouts are held in March of each year.

### The Hoffman Cup & the Advocates Cup

The Hoffman Cup & The Advocates Cup are managed by the Center for Advocacy.

The Hoffman Cup is the premier trial advocacy tournament at Denver Law and serves as a showcase of our school’s talent. It is a weekend-long experiential event where Denver Law crowns the school Champions and the Best Overall Advocate. Participation is open to all upper-level students, and 1Ls are invited to serve as witnesses.

The Advocates Cup is a great opportunity for students to develop and sharpen their trial advocacy skills. All students (1L, 2L, 3L) are welcome to compete as advocates. Each 1L is paired with a 2L or 3L student so both benefit from the mentor/mentee educational dynamic.

### Moot Court Board Intra-School Competitions

The Moot Court Board provides students with high quality legal scenarios under realistic conditions. The student-run board manages and produces six advocacy competitions per academic year, including the:

- Negotiations Competition
- Trial Competition
- Appellate Competition
- Client Counseling Competition
- International Appellate Competition
- Motions Competition

Competitions are advertised heavily, but students can contact the current leaders of the Moot Court Board for additional information.

## BAR PASSAGE

Bar Passage at DU is driven by the DU Bar Success Program. Scott Johns is the key contact for the program and encourages students to contact him early and frequently:

**Key Contact:** Scott Johns, Director, DU Bar Success Program  
[william.johns@du.edu](mailto:william.johns@du.edu)  
Rm. 455L

**Web Address:** <https://www.law.du.edu/academics/academic-achievement-bar-success/postgraduate-du-bar-success-program-dubs>

### DU Bar Success Program

The DU Bar Success Program is a free bar prep program available to all graduating students and alumni. It provides instruction, coaching, and feedback throughout the two-month study period immediately prior to the bar exam. The series includes a variety of strategic workshops, practice mock bar exams, individual consultations, and timely feedback on writing assignments. It is intended to serve as a supplement to, and not a replacement for a commercial bar prep course.

### Legal Analysis Strategies (L4032)

Legal Analysis Strategies is a course offered to graduating students that provides instruction, guidance, and feedback to develop foundational skills necessary to achieve success on both the bar exam and in the legal profession as skilled legal analysts. The course primarily focuses on core bar exam subjects (constitutional law, civil procedure, contracts/sales, property, evidence, torts, and criminal law/procedure) and includes diagnostic evaluations.

### Partnership with Themis Bar Review

Thanks to a donation by the Sturm Family Foundation, DU Law graduates are provided with a complimentary Bar Review Course post-graduation to prepare each graduate for the bar exam, eliminating the out-of-pocket cost of a bar preparation commercial course. DU Law entered a partnership with Themis Bar Review to provide a suite of resources, including their Bar Review Course, to help our students build important lawyering skills while in law school to best prepare them for the bar exam and legal practice.

**Key Contact:** Chris Engle-Newman, Assistant Director of Bar Success  
[Christopher.S.Engle-Newman@du.edu](mailto:Christopher.S.Engle-Newman@du.edu)  
Rm. 455J

## CAREER RESOURCES

The Office of Career Development and Opportunities (CDO) serves as the primary resource for students seeking jobs, non-credit bearing internships, or clerkships. The CDO also collaborates with the Legal Externship Office in providing student opportunities for pay/credit combination. The CDO hosts a variety of workshops, careers series, panels, mock interview days, networking events and other career-related activities. Students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with a career counselor through their Symplicity account or by emailing the CDO: [law-careers@du.edu](mailto:law-careers@du.edu). See the CDO website for a list of the CDO Team.

### Individualized Career Assistance

Career Counselors can advise students about a wide variety of legal practice areas, settings and other alternative career paths in both public and private sectors. Students are encouraged to schedule an initial appointment in the fall semester of their 1L year to develop their application materials and discuss career plans and continue to engage with the CDO throughout their law school careers.

### DU Law Careers Online (Symplicity)

DU Law Careers Online (Symplicity) is the online career database and career information hub students and alumni can access to locate resources designed to assist students to develop strong and effective application materials, perform well during interviews, and learn more about how to navigate the overall job seeking process. Symplicity also provides students with information about upcoming programs, networking opportunities and other announcements associated with career development. Students can apply for employment and non-credit bearing internship opportunities through Symplicity or find specific information about application processes outside of the system. Students should keep their online profile up-to-date and visit Symplicity frequently for all of their job seeking needs and questions.

### On-Campus Interviews (OCI)

OCI occurs at various times throughout the year and typically targets rising second-year JD students, although students in other class years may be eligible occasionally. Most employers select and interview candidates in the OCI sessions that occur in late summer and early fall. The spring OCI session is open to 1L students, too. OCI is well advertised to students throughout the process and CDO provides informational sessions and one-on-one counseling to help students participate at the highest level. Students learn about the OCI opportunities and apply for positions through Symplicity.

### Career Fairs

The CDO facilitates an annual Government and Public Service career fair each year. The CDO also hosts other career fairs and expos that are practice area focused or highlight a specific area of interest, including a Mid & Small Firm Careers Expo and an OCI Meet the Firms event.

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING RESOURCES

In 2013, Denver Law launched its Experiential Advantage™ Curriculum (“EAC”). The EAC includes, among many other initiatives, the Legal Externship Program, the Clinical Programs, Semester in Practice, and the DU/CU Legal Residency Program.

### Legal Externship Program

Legal externships are for-credit internships that are supported by faculty guided reflection and oversight. The Externship Program places over 600 externs each year. Students obtain externships by searching the externship Supervisor Attorney database to identify desired externships and applying through the Externship Office. Externships are offered across the public and private sectors, including but not limited to externships with judicial chambers, nonprofits, private (solo, small, big law), corporations, state/local/federal government agencies, legislative placements, public defender offices, and prosecution offices.

**Key Contact:** Alexi Freeman, Legal Externship Director  
[alexi.freeman@du.edu](mailto:alexi.freeman@du.edu)  
Rm. 365M

**Web Address:** [www.law.du.edu/legal-externship-program](http://www.law.du.edu/legal-externship-program)

### Semester in Practice

Semester in Practice, run out of the Externship office, gives students the opportunity to develop practice skills by fulfilling 15 credits (12 field work credits plus a three-credit graded seminar). Students work full-time during the externship (40 hours per week). In this capstone experience, offered to students in their last year of law school, students have significant exposure to the substantive law in their externship, and focus on skills and professional identity in their seminar.

**Key Contact:** Alexi Freeman, Legal Externship Director  
[alexi.freeman@du.edu](mailto:alexi.freeman@du.edu)  
Rm. 365M

**Web Address:** [www.law.du.edu/legal-externship-program](http://www.law.du.edu/legal-externship-program)

### Clinical Programs

Founded in 1904, the Student Law Office is believed to be the oldest clinical program in the country. Students learn lawyering skills with real-world clients under the supervision of a clinic faculty. Clinics include:

- Advancing Social Change (This course will give first priority to qualified students in the part-time program at Denver Law)
- Civil Litigation Clinic
- Civil Rights Clinic (Two Semesters)
- Community Economic Development Clinic (Two Semesters)

- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Environmental Law Clinic (Two Semesters)
- Immigration Law & Policy (Two Semesters)
- Low Income Tax Player Clinic
- Tribal Wills Project
- Veterans Advocacy Project

Applications for the year-long clinics are taken in the spring of each year for the following fall. Applications for the semester clinics are taken each semester.

**Key Contact:** Lindsey Webb, Ronald V. Yegge Clinical Director  
[lindsey.webb@du.edu](mailto:lindsey.webb@du.edu)  
Rm. 365F

**Web Address:** <https://www.law.du.edu/academics/practical-experience/clinical-programs>

## DU/CU Legal Residency Program

The DU/CU Legal Residency Program is a partnership initiative with CU Law that provides new graduates with 12-18 months of valuable legal training and experience, and employers with legal staffing at reasonable costs. Participating organizations hire one or more residents from a pool of new JD graduates provided exclusively by the two Colorado law schools. Legal Residents are paid by the employer and follow a Learning Agenda which outlines the type of work the resident performs, the types of skills the resident builds and facilitates regular, meaningful feedback.